

# House File 585 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 585

BY COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 76)

## A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the establishment and implementation of  
2 the safe and sound program within the department of public  
3 safety, to participation in or use of the program by schools  
4 and students, to immunity from civil or criminal liability  
5 arising from a report made pursuant to the program, and to a  
6 safe and sound revolving fund, and providing penalties.  
7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 22.7, Code 2021, is amended by adding the  
2 following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 74. Information and reports obtained and  
4 prepared by any individual receiving anonymous reports pursuant  
5 to section 80.48.

6 Sec. 2. NEW SECTION. 80.48 **Safe and sound program.**

7 1. For purposes of this section, "*school entities*"  
8 means school districts or accredited nonpublic schools in  
9 Iowa offering instruction at any or all levels from the  
10 prekindergarten level through grade twelve, and includes the  
11 board of directors of a school district, the authorities in  
12 charge of accredited nonpublic schools, and school personnel  
13 employed by a school district or accredited nonpublic school.

14 2. A safe and sound program is established within the  
15 department for purposes of developing and implementing a system  
16 for receiving anonymous reports and other information from the  
17 public in regard to potential self-harm and potential harm or  
18 criminal acts including threats of violence, sexual abuse,  
19 assault, or bullying directed at school students or school  
20 entities.

21 3. The program shall include all of the following:

22 a. Establishing a statewide, twenty-four-hours-a-day,  
23 seven-days-a-week, toll-free hotline, internet site, and mobile  
24 application for the purpose of receiving reports in accordance  
25 with this section.

26 b. Establishing methods and procedures to ensure that  
27 the identity of any reporting party remains unknown to all  
28 persons, including but not limited to law enforcement officers  
29 and employees operating the hotline, internet site, or mobile  
30 application.

31 c. Ensuring that the identity of an individual making a  
32 report, who voluntarily discloses the individual's identity and  
33 verifies the individual's willingness to be identified, may be  
34 shared with law enforcement officers and school entities.

35 d. Ensuring that if the identity of an individual making

1 a report becomes known through a means other than voluntary  
2 disclosure, the identity is not further disclosed.

3 e. (1) Establishing procedures to review all information  
4 submitted through the hotline, internet site, and mobile  
5 application and report that information, including any analysis  
6 of the potential threat, to the appropriate law enforcement  
7 agency and school entities, as determined by the department by  
8 rule. The program shall work with school entities and local  
9 law enforcement agencies to identify each person to whom a  
10 report from the program shall be sent.

11 (2) The department shall not be held liable for the  
12 investigation of information reported to the program following  
13 confirmation of receipt of the report by the appropriate law  
14 enforcement agency or school entity.

15 f. In consultation with the department of education,  
16 providing training and instruction to individuals, including  
17 but not limited to individuals at law enforcement agencies and  
18 school entities, on appropriate awareness and response to the  
19 program. The program shall provide guidance for the violence  
20 prevention curricula developed in accordance with section  
21 280.9B.

22 g. Developing and implementing program awareness initiatives  
23 and providing related educational materials to school entities.

24 h. In consultation with the department of education,  
25 establishing guidelines that school entities may utilize to  
26 respond to a report sent by the program.

27 i. In consultation with the departments of education,  
28 human services, and public health and the office of the  
29 attorney general, create a threat assessment team to assist  
30 law enforcement agencies and school entities to respond  
31 appropriately to information reported in accordance with this  
32 section. Each such department or office shall designate one  
33 employee to serve on the threat assessment team. The team  
34 may assist any school entity at the request of local law  
35 enforcement and school officials or administrators.

1     4. A person participating in good faith in the making of  
2 a report in accordance with this section shall have immunity  
3 from any liability, civil or criminal, which might otherwise  
4 be incurred or imposed as a result of information shared  
5 in accordance with this section or learned as a result of  
6 information shared in accordance with this section. The person  
7 shall have the same immunity with respect to participating in  
8 good faith in any judicial proceeding resulting from the report  
9 or relating to the subject matter of the report.

10    5. A safe and sound revolving fund is created in the  
11 state treasury under the control of the department. Any  
12 moneys annually appropriated, granted, or credited to the  
13 fund, including any federal moneys, are appropriated to the  
14 department for the safe and sound program. Notwithstanding  
15 section 8.33, moneys remaining in the revolving fund at the  
16 end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the general fund  
17 but shall remain available for the purposes of this section.  
18 Notwithstanding section 12C.7, subsection 2, interest and  
19 earnings on moneys deposited in the revolving fund shall be  
20 credited to the revolving fund.

21    Sec. 3. Section 280.9B, Code 2021, is amended to read as  
22 follows:

23     **280.9B Violence prevention curriculum.**

24     The department of education shall develop a statewide  
25 violence prevention program based on law-related education.  
26 The department shall contract with a law-related education  
27 agency that serves the state and provides a comprehensive  
28 plan to develop violence prevention curricula for grades  
29 kindergarten through twelve, provide training to teachers and  
30 school administrators on violence prevention, and develop  
31 school-community partnerships for violence prevention. The  
32 department of education shall include in the curricula  
33 instruction on the safe and sound program established under  
34 section 80.48 and how students can use the safe and sound  
35 program.

1     Sec. 4. NEW SECTION.   280.18   Safe and sound program —  
2 participation requirements.

3     The board of directors of a school district and authorities  
4 in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall distribute  
5 within every school building materials related to the safe and  
6 sound program, established pursuant to section 80.48, and shall  
7 designate at least one individual to receive information that  
8 is reported to the safe and sound program.

9     Sec. 5. Section 280.30, subsection 1, Code 2021, is amended  
10 to read as follows:

11     1. The board of directors of a school district and the  
12 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall  
13 ~~develop~~ do all of the following:

14     a. Develop a high-quality emergency operations plan for  
15 the district and individual school buildings in which students  
16 are educated ~~no later than June 30, 2019.~~ The plan shall  
17 include but not be limited to responses to active shooter  
18 scenarios and natural disasters. The plan shall provide that  
19 any alert regarding an emergency situation that is transmitted  
20 to school personnel or students by electronic means shall  
21 also be transmitted to the employer of any individual who is  
22 not a school employee but who is required as a part of the  
23 individual's employment to regularly be present in a school  
24 building during the school year. The plan shall include  
25 publication of procedures for school personnel, parents, and  
26 guardians to report possible threats to the safety of students  
27 or school personnel on school grounds or at school activities.  
28 The board and authorities shall consider any recommendations  
29 of the department of education relating to the development of  
30 a high-quality emergency operations plan and shall consult  
31 with local emergency management coordinators and local law  
32 enforcement agencies in the development of the plan. The board  
33 and authorities shall review and update the plan on an annual  
34 basis. The plan shall be confidential and shall not be a  
35 public record subject to disclosure under [chapter 22](#).



1 accredited nonpublic schools offering instruction at any or all  
2 levels from the prekindergarten level through grade 12, and  
3 includes school boards, the authorities in charge of accredited  
4 nonpublic schools, and school personnel employed by a school  
5 district or accredited nonpublic school.

6 The program must establish a statewide toll-free hotline,  
7 internet site, and mobile application for receiving the  
8 anonymous reports.

9 The program must also establish methods and procedures  
10 to ensure that the identity of any reporting party remains  
11 anonymous to all unless the individual making the report  
12 voluntarily discloses the individual's identity and indicates a  
13 willingness to be identified, at which point that individual's  
14 identity may be shared with law enforcement officers and school  
15 entities.

16 The program must establish procedures for reviewing the  
17 information received and for reporting that information,  
18 including any analysis of the potential threat, to the  
19 appropriate law enforcement agency, or school entity, as  
20 determined by the department by rule. The program must work  
21 with local law enforcement agencies and school entities to  
22 identify each person to whom a report from the program shall  
23 be sent.

24 Once the program reports information to the appropriate  
25 law enforcement agency or school official, or entity, and the  
26 receiving entity confirms receipt of the report, the department  
27 shall not be held liable for investigation of the information  
28 reported. A person participating in good faith in the making  
29 of a report or participating in any judicial proceeding  
30 resulting from the report shall have immunity from any civil or  
31 criminal liability which would otherwise be imposed as a result  
32 of information shared under the program or learned as a result  
33 of information shared under the program.

34 The program must provide, in consultation with the  
35 department of education, training and instruction to

1 individuals, including but not limited to school entities and  
2 law enforcement agencies, on appropriate awareness and response  
3 to the program; must develop and implement program awareness  
4 initiatives and provide related educational materials to school  
5 entities; and must establish guidelines that school entities  
6 may utilize to respond to a report sent by the program.

7 In consultation with the departments of education, human  
8 services, and public health and the office of the attorney  
9 general, the program must create a threat assessment team to  
10 assist law enforcement agencies and school entities to respond  
11 appropriately to information reported. Each such department or  
12 office must designate one employee to serve on the team. The  
13 team may assist any school entity at the request of local law  
14 enforcement and school officials or administrators.

15 Information and reports provided through the program are  
16 confidential under Code section 22.7.

17 The bill creates a safe and sound revolving fund in the  
18 state treasury under the control of the department. Any moneys  
19 annually appropriated, granted, or credited to the fund,  
20 are appropriated to the department for the program. Moneys  
21 remaining in the revolving fund at the end of the fiscal year  
22 do not revert to the general fund but shall remain available  
23 for the safe and sound program. Interest and earnings on  
24 moneys in the revolving fund are credited to the revolving  
25 fund.

26 Currently, the department of education is responsible  
27 for developing a statewide violence prevention program and  
28 curricula. The bill requires that the department include in  
29 the curricula instruction on the safe and sound program and how  
30 students can use the program.

31 School boards and accredited nonpublic school authorities  
32 must distribute within every school building materials  
33 related to the safe and sound program; designate at least one  
34 individual to receive information that is reported to the  
35 safe and sound program; and submit the school's emergency



1 operations plans and any updates to the plans to the department  
2 of public safety. The department may share such plans with law  
3 enforcement agencies.

4 Under the bill, a person who knowingly provides false  
5 identification information through the safe and sound toll-free  
6 hotline, internet site, or mobile application commits a simple  
7 misdemeanor. A simple misdemeanor is punishable by confinement  
8 for no more than 30 days and a fine of at least \$105 but not  
9 more than \$855.